GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4264
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
STUDY ON ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON SETHU SAMUDRAM PROJECT
Manoj Dr. K.S.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Ecological and Environmental Research Institute (NEERI) has conducted any study on the ecological and environmental impact of the Sethu Samudram project;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any research has been conducted about the likely impact of Tsunami to the Sethu Samudram Project; and

(d) if so, the details of the findings thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) & (b) The National Environment Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur has carried out an Environment Impact Assessment study for the Sethusamudram Shipping Canal Project. The study predicted certain impacts which are addressed in the Environmental Management Plan for the project. Based on the above study and the Environmental Management Plan,the Ministry of Environment and Forests accorded environmental clearance to this project.

(c) & (d) M/s Sethusamudram Corporation Limited, under Ministry of Shipping, has informed that the animation models of Tsunami evolved by the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology,Japan and M/s Indomer Hydraulics Private Limited, India indicate that the Sethusamudram project region would be least affected. Further,National Institute of Ocean Technology,Chennai has informed that the damages due to tsunami can be only along near shore beach areas because of the resistance effect of the near shore structures against the tsunami passage, whereas Sethusamudram Shipping Canal will not show any such resistance except for the bed scouring.